

Information Products Bulletin

April 2008

Significant Information Products Released/Completed Since the Last Publication of the Information Products Bulletin - December 2007 , v. 20

The Information Products Bulletin (IPB) is a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to inform the public about "*significant information products*" being developed by EPA and some states, and identify opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement. "*Significant information products*" include products under development or modification by EPA and states, that use national or regional data to describe environmental conditions, trends, and/or the performance of companies, facilities and communities.

The products described below have been completed and released since the publication of the Interim Information Products Bulletin.

Air

CMAQ AMET (Atmospheric Model Evaluation Tool)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system was developed by the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in 1999. CMAQ is a modeling framework available to air quality regulators, policy makers, industry, and scientists to address multi-scale, multi-pollutant air quality concerns. The Atmospheric Model Evaluation Tool (AMET) was developed to match the meteorology and CMAQ air quality predictions with observations in space and time and then stores them in a relational database. Subsequent analysis programs extract user-specified data from the database to generate statistical plots and tables for model evaluation. The database-driven framework allows users to isolate data by state, region, latitude, longitude, elevation, land use, observation network, date, time of day, pollutant concentration or meteorological conditions, or any combination of these criteria. AMET has been beneficial in several formal evaluations of the CMAQ modeling system as documented in peer-reviewed journal articles, and it is routinely being used by the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards for evaluation of CMAQ predictions. In February 2008, the first official release of AMET was made available to the public, and more than 100 downloads of AMET have been made within the first month.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** National Exposure Research Laboratory
Robin Baily, 919-541-7906, 919-541-0602(FAX), baily.rob@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Other

How to Access Draft Product:

www.cmascenter.org/help/model_docs/amet/1.0/AMET_Users_Guide_v1.0.pdf

Cross-Media

American Indian Tribal Portal

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The American Indian Environmental Office developed this tribal portal to assist tribes and the public locate tribal related information within EPA and other government agencies.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** American Indian Environmental Office

Janice DiPietro, 202-564-7616, 202-564-0029(FAX), dipietro.janice@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/tribalportal/

EPA Quarterly Management Report for Q1 FY 2008

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Quarterly Management Report (QMR) provides timely performance data for a number of the Agency's important work areas. EPA managers use this information to review results and deliver better environmental results to the American people. This report complements the existing budget, performance, and financial management tools that make up EPA's performance management system. Because it is updated quarterly, most measures are outputs rather than environmental outcomes. However, the activities are linked to outcome-oriented Goals in EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. The QMR presents a balance of national and regional information, but does not cover all of the Agency's work. For a look at Agency progress against the broader set of performance metrics used to support EPA's budget, please see EPA's Performance and Accountability Report, which is produced annually.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of the Chief Financial Officer

- **Co-Developer:** Office of Environmental Information

- **EPA Office/Organization:**

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Web site/Web page, Mailing to stakeholders

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/ocfo/qmr/index.htm

Solid Waste and Emergency Response

National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2001-2005)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This report tracks progress being made toward the EPA OSW goal, under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), to reduce the quantity of Priority Chemicals contained in wastes. The Trends Report also shows trends from 2001-2005, concerning the generation and management of the Priority Chemicals by National, EPA Region, State, county, industry sector, and federal facility levels. The report also will present the generation and management trends of the Priority Chemicals within selected industry sectors. EPA annually updates this report, using the most recent Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data available to examine waste generation and management trends for the Priority Chemicals. The Trends Report

and associated facility-specific data are only accessible at the website indicated below.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response/Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division

William Kline, 540-341-3631, 540-349-9181(FAX), kline.bill@epa.gov

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/trends.htm

Water

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) Data Entry Portal

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA is moving the current Clean Water Needs Survey data entry system to the Internet between now and 2008. Moving the system to the internet will provide easier access by States for data entry, as well as extend data entry capabilities to facilities and local communities. Development of the internet-based data entry system, which began in September of 2005, will be guided by a steering group composed of representatives from EPA, States, and Local Communities. Interested parties should contact Michael Plastino, CWNS Team Leader.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Wastewater Management

Michael Plastino, 202-564-0682, plastino.michael@epa.gov

Karen Fligger, 202-564-2992, fligger.karen@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Focus group(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Federal Register notice, E-mail/Listserv, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2004 Report to Congress

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The 'Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) 2004 Report to Congress' will present the results of a joint EPA-State survey of water quality programs and projects that may be eligible for funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). EPA prepares this report in response to section 516 of the Clean Water Act. This will be the fourteenth survey/report since 1972. The CWNS is a collaborative effort between the States and EPA. States entered data into the CWNS database during a 10-month period between May 2004 and February 2005. States obtained the necessary information from a variety of sources. State-entered data is being reviewed and analyzed in accordance with agreed-upon criteria before being accepted for inclusion in the main body of the report. State-reported needs that did not meet the criteria are reported separately as Separate State Estimates. For the purpose of CWNS 2004 a 'need' is defined as a water quality or public health problem and an associated cost that is generally eligible for funding under the CWSRF. The need had to exist on January 1, 2004, and be supported by documentation that the States and EPA agreed upon before the survey was initiated. Lacking sufficient documentation of some cost information, EPA embedded cost curves into the CWNS data entry system to enable States to estimate costs for documented needs. In addition to need and cost information, the report will summarize and report technical data, such as population, flow, and effluent quality.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Water/Office of Wastewater Management

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Karen Fligger, 202-564-2992, fligger.karen@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Survey(s)/Questionnaire(s)

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/cwns

CMAQ Watershed Deposition Tool

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system was developed by the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in 1999. CMAQ is a modeling framework available to air quality regulators, policy makers, industry, and scientists to address multi-scale, multi-pollutant air quality concerns. The CMAQ has a unique framework and science design that enables scientists and regulators to build their own modeling system to suit their needs. Users can access pre-installed modeling systems provided by the EPA or can incorporate their own modeling systems to work within the existing framework software. The Watershed Deposition Tool (WDT) provides a user friendly tool for mapping the deposition estimates from CMAQ in to watersheds thus providing a scientifically sound linkage between air and water needed for TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) estimates and related nonpoint-source watershed analyses. This software tool takes gridded atmospheric deposition estimates from NOAA/EPA's regional, multi-pollutant air quality model, CMAQ, and allocates them to 8-digit HUCs (hydrologic cataloging units of rivers and streams) or user-specified HUCs within a watershed, State or Region.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **Co-Developer:** Office of Air and Radiation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** National Exposure Research Laboratory
Robin Baily, 919-541-7906, 919-541-0602(FAX), baily.robin@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Web site/Web page, Information fact sheet(s) and other similar materials

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/asmdnerl/Multimedia/depositionMapping.html